

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-06 DODE-00

COME-00 PM-04 SS-15 /086 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2732

INFO ERDA WASHINGTON

ERDA GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG

SUBJECT: EUROCHEMAC NUCLEAR RE PROCESSING PLANT

REF: TELECON COOPER-PURPLE JAN. 7

1. CONFIRMING REFTELCON, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE PRESENT STATUS AND PLANS FOR THE EUROCHEMIC FACILITY WAS OBTAINED BY ERDA REP AND EMBASSY BRUSSELS OFFICER FROM MME. HERPELS, GOB, AND FROM E. SHANK (U.S. EMPLOYEE OF COMPRIMO BELGIE).

2. SINCE 1974, THERE HAS BEEN NO FUEL REPROCESSING AT EUROCHEMIC. ON DEC. 17, 1976, THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF BELGOPROCESS (A 50 PERCENT GOVERNMENT-OWNED COMPANY) DECIDED TO TAKE OVER OPERATION OF THE REPROCESSING PLANT AND RUN IT AS A PILOT PLANT AT ITS RATED CAPACITY OF 60 TONNES PER YEAR. IT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS EVALUATING WHETHER TO SCALE THE EXISTING PLANT UP TO 300 TONNES PER YEAR OR TO BUILD A NEW PLANT OF THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAPACITY. THE BELGIAN REQUIREMENT FOR REPROCESSING FUELS FROM ITS OWN REACTORS IS 60 TONNES PER YEAR BY 1982 AND 300 TONNES PER YEAR BY 1990.

3. MR. SHANK SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THE REASON FOR THE DECISION WAS CONCERN BY GOB THAT REPROCESSING FACILITY AT LAHAGUE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO HANDLE BELGIAN

SPENT FUEL UNTIL AT LEAST 1978.

4. THE PLANS FOR TAKING OVER THE FACILITY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING DETAILS WHICH ARE NOW BEING NEGOTIATED WITH THE 12 OECD COUNTRIES THAT SPONSORED EUROCHEMIC. FIRST, GOB GETS TITLE TO THE REPROCESSING PLANT. IN RETURN FOR BEING RELIEVED OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR EVENTUAL REMOVAL OF THE FACILITY (A CONDITION OF THE ORIGINAL EUROCHEMIC AGREEMENT), THE TWELVE COUNTRIES WILL PAY ABOUT \$12 MILLION TO GOB (APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRD THE DISMANTLING COST). FINALLY, THE TWELVE COUNTRIES WOULD CONTINUE OPERATION OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES AT THE SITE.

5. MME. HERPELS TOLD US THAT A NEW NUCLEAR COMPANY IS BEING FORMED TO CONSOLIDATE THE ACTIVITIES OF THREE EXISTING JOINT (50-50) GOB-PRIVATE INDUSTRY FIRMS: BELGOPROCESS, BELGOWASTE, AND BELGONUCLEAIRE. THE NEW COMPANY IS NAMED BELGOFUELS, AND WILL PROBABLY BE 50 PERCENT GOVERNMENT OWNED. THE PRIVATE INDUSTRY PARTNER IS SYNATOME, A HOLDING COMPANY OF UTILITIES AND CONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATIONS.

6. MISSION COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MME. HERPELS WAS NOT PRESSED ON THIS POINT, MISSION EXPECTS THAT GOB ATTITUDE RE PRESIDENT FORD'S OCT. 28 NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT IS THAT THIS TAKEOVER OF EUROCHEMIC IS JUST AN ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION, THAT IT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A NEW REPROCESSING PLANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INITIATIVE IN THE SENSE OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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